UNITED NATIONS

January 1990

Division of Narcotic Drugs
P.O. Box 500, 1400-Vienna Austria

information letter

CND Session Opens

The 40-member Commission on Narcotic Drugs opened its current session in Vienna on 29 January to last through 2 February 1990.

Preparatory Committee Elects Officers

The Preparatory Committee for the 17th special session of the General Assembly held its first session in New York from 6 to 8 December 1989. It elected Ambassador Peter Hohenfellner of Austria as Chairman.

Other officers elected at the Committee's organizational meeting were three Vice-Chairmen: Ambassadors Ricardo Luna of Peru, Koffi Adjoyi of Togo and Razali Ismail of Malaysia. Ambassador Anatoli Oleinik of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic was elected Rapporteur.

The Preparatory Committee approved a provisional agenda for the special session of the General Assembly. The Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, Francisco Ramos-Galino, attended this session of the Preparatory Committee and provided expert advice.

For Drug Abuse Control

General Assembly to Hold Special Session on International Co-operation

High-level delegates from all parts of the world will convene in New York from 20 to 23 February 1990 at a special session of the General Assembly. The 17th special session is to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs with a view to expanding the scope and increasing the effectiveness of such co-operation.

The Assembly decided to hold a special session in resolution 44/16 of 1 November 1989 in response to calls for action made during its 44th session by numerous world leaders, including President Virgilio Barco Vargas of Colombia.

At the end of his address on 29 September, when he stressed that with international commitment and co-operation the drug abuse plague can be made obsolete, President Barco was given a standing ovation by the Assembly.

On 14 November 1989 the Assembly adopted decision 44/410 on the organization of the special session, to meet at UN Headquarters under the presidency of the President of the Assembly's 44th session.

The Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to consider the question of the enhancement of the role of the United Nations in the fight against illicit drugs and to formulate its views thereon for the benefit of the work of the Assembly at its special session.

It invited the Commission and other relevant bodies of the UN system "to transmit to the General Assembly at its special session any views on matters pertaining to the special session."

During the Assembly's general debate virtually every plenary speaker, including several Heads of State, referred to the drug abuse crisis reflecting increasing concern and calling for intensified multilateral action. Subsequent discussions in the Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Questions), were marked by a record number of speakers on matters pertaining to international drug abuse control.

The Third Committee also heard statements by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, Margaret J. Anstee, in her capacity as Co-ordinator of all United Nations drug control-related activities, the Executive Director

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At a briefing for Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in Vienna, convened by the Division of Narcotic Drugs on 16 January 1990, the UNOV Director-General outlined the background leading to the special session of the General Assembly. Discussions centred on the possible input of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Also pictured are the heads of the drug control units (from l to r) Abdelaziz Bahi, Giuseppe di Gennaro and Francisco Ramos-Galino.

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INCB Releases 1989 Report

In its Report for 1989, released on 10 January 1990, the International Narcotics Control Board points out that the deterioration in the world situation in respect of the illicit production and abuse of drugs, together with the attendant escalating violence, has reached a new and dangerous stage.

Despite the unprecedented counteraction taken by the world community, an interlocking network of criminal drug trafficking organizations, heavily financed and armed, has become ever bolder and more ruthless. The danger of undermining and paralyzing the political institutions and economies of some countries has never been greater. The peril in some countries to the very lives of political leaders, jurists, journalists and private citizens has also never been greater.

The traffickers' declaration of war against a single country endangers the security and integrity of all countries and constitutes war against the whole international community. The response of the international community must be concerted, swift, more forceful, more comprehensive, more innovative. For the criminal trafficking organizations, linked within countries, within regions, interregionally, and often with terrorist insurgents, to prevail in the struggle in any one country would imperil all countries. The war to defeat them must be waged globally.

The Board stresses that accordingly the international community should in its own interest provide promptly and to the greatest extent possible the assistance requested by any Government under siege by the traffickers. Such requests for assistance may well range from means to protect officials, judges and witnesses to the provision of aircraft, weapons and training to bolster security forces.

The Report notes that since 1988 illicit production of narcotic drugs has increased and more countries are now involved.

With regard to drug abuse, the Report stresses that within one generation, the abuse of drugs has expanded so quickly that virtually all countries and segments of society are menaced. Abuse is now prevalent everywhere - in the streets, in schools, in the work place, in sports arenas.

Health hazards continue to be aggravated by the simultaneous consumption of more than one drug, frequently in combination with alcohol. Such perilous consumption patterns complicate detoxification and treatment. The Board reiterates the importance it attaches to sustained progress in containing and reducing the illicit demand for drugs, which it considers as central to any improvement in the overall drug trafficking situation.

The perils of drug abuse which have now become even more lethal because of the prevalence of AIDS, make it imperative that drug abuse prevention and treatment programmes aimed at high risk groups be given priority attention, with measures urgently needed to reduce the spread of AIDS neither promoting nor facilitating drug abuse.

In its Report for 1989, the Board emphatically joins its voice with those of Governments which have rejected the view expressed by some individuals who advocate the legalization of the use of some or all drugs.

Such an approach sends a signal in the wrong direction. It would undoubtedly be interpreted by potential drug abusers as sanctioning drug use and can be expected to lead to an explosion of abuse, accompanied by drug-related deaths, escalating health care costs, and destruction of families as well as of basic values which govern behaviour in society.

The 1989 Report (E/INCB/1989/1) is supplemented by three technical reports: Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 1990 - Statistics for 1988; Statistics on Psychotropic Substances for 1988; and Demand for and Supply of Opiates for Medical and Scientific Needs.

UNFDAC Budget Expansion Continues

The marked expansion and intensification of the activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control in recent years continued during 1989: the budgeted US$ 62.5 million has enabled the provision of financial and technical assistance to 49 countries through 114 national-level drug control projects.

The UNFDAC work programme for 1989 has also included 38 regional and global projects aimed at providing a broad range of drug control activities such as specialized training, advisory services, research, exchange of information, conferences, seminars, workshops and expert group meetings. These activities have been implemented by various bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other international agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The table below provides comparative information.

Work programme, 1980 and 1983-1989

Item	1980	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Programme budget (millions of US dollars)	7.6	9.5	13.4	18.7	21.4	39.8	60.4	62.5
Number of countries (country programmes)	12	10	22	25	31	35	40	49
Number of projects (country and global)	48	38	57	69	95	115	121	152
Sectoral distribution of funds (percentage)								
Reduction of supply	22	20	31	49	38	45	42	34
Reduction of demand	26	10	11	12	16	18	24	34
Strengthening control measures	29	46	39	26	33	28	20	25
Research	2	5	4	1	1	1	1	1
Working arrangement with UNDP	11	10	8	6	7	5	4	4
Administration, programme evaluation	10	9	7	6	5	3	3	2

GA Special Session To Meet 20-23 February 1990

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of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), Giuseppe di Gennaro, and the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, Francisco Ramos-Galino.

In introducing the item on the international campaign on drug abuse and illicit trafficking, the Director of the Division outlined work accomplished during the year drawing attention in particular to the Division's input for the preparatory work, organization and servicing of the Plenipotentiary Conference for the adoption of the 1988 Convention. He also reported on a series of meetings organized by the Division on various specialized topics.

He noted that the second Interregional HONLEA had been held in September 1989, with the participation of more than 100 countries, and appealed for the provisional implementation of the 1988 Convention pending its entry into force.

In her statement, the Director-General said she was disturbed by highly publicized press reports and other comments suggesting that the war with the traffickers had already been lost. The truth was rather that in any real sense that war had not even begun to be waged. She noted with concern that such pessimistic talk had been accompanied by a rising crescendo of siren voices calling for the abandonment of the policy of control, and for the legalization of narcotic drugs.

The Executive Director of UNFDAC observed that if its programme had been unable to stem the spread of drug abuse, this was not due to its quality but to the relative scarcity of the resources available. He noted that even if the quality of the interventions appeared to be good, they fall short of the desired goal of controlling the drug abuse phenomena all over the world because of very strong financial constraints.

The President of the INCB, Ben Huyghe-Braeckmans, also addressed the Third Committee.

Three resolutions and one decision on drug abuse control were adopted on 15 December 1989.

By resolution 44/140 on the "Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances", the General Assembly urges States to proceed rapidly to sign and ratify the Convention, so that it enters into force as early as possible.

It also invites States, to the extent possible, to apply provisionally the measures set forth in the Convention pending its entry into force.

In resolution 44/141 on "Global programme of action against illicit narcotic drugs", the Assembly resolves that drug abuse control activities should be accorded the highest possible priority by the international community and that the United Nations should be the main focus for concerted action. It agrees to strengthen the capability of the United Nations in this field.

The Assembly further requests the Secretary-General to co-ordinate the development of a United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control aimed at the full implementation of all existing mandates and subsequent decisions of intergovernmental bodies throughout the UN system.

By resolution 44/142 on "International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking", the Assembly urges the international community to provide increased international economic and technical co-operation to Governments at their request in support of programmes for the substitution of illicit crops. It also requests the Secretary-General to undertake, with the assistance of intergovernmental experts, a study on the economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs.

By decision 44/434 the Assembly, considering the new magnitude acquired by the problem of the abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, decided to change the title of its agenda item to read: "International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking".

Three reports prepared by the Division of Narcotic Drugs on behalf of the Secretary-General were submitted to the 44th session: on the "United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances", A/44/572; on "International Co-operation in Drug Abuse Control", A/44/600 and Corr.1, and on the "International Campaign against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking", A/44/601.

President Virgilio Barco Vargas of Colombia addressing the United Nations General Assembly in September 1989 when, referring to international drug traffickers, he pointed out that a new world war is being waged by an aggressor unrestrained by the traditional rules of engagement or by the responsibilities of national sovereignty. He called for a special session of the Assembly addressed to all aspects of the global drug problem. His address has been described as one of the most dramatic and moving of all orations ever heard in the Assembly.

Mission to France Furthers Co-operation

Discussions on the enhancement of collaborative action and support for drug control programmes were held in Paris on 8 and 9 January with officials in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior. The Deputy Director of the Division, Bertrand Juppin de Fondaumière, was accompanied by Kálmán Szendrei, Chief, Applied Scientific Research and Technical Advisory Section, who also travelled to Lyon to visit a specialized French police laboratory.

Interpol General Assembly Meets at New Headquarters

The Division of Narcotic Drugs was represented at the 58th ICPO/Interpol General Assembly held in Lyon by its recently appointed Legal Adviser, Andrew Wells. He delivered a statement on 29 November 1989 outlining the range of United Nations assistance potentially available to help implement the drug control treaties, particularly the 1988 Convention.

Interpol moved its headquarters to Lyon in June 1989.

Press Forum Examines Terrorism and Drug Traffic

At the invitation of the College of Journalists of Peru, the Director of the Division, Francisco Ramos-Galino, participated in a Forum on Terrorism and Drug Traffic held in Lima from 28 November to 4 December 1989. His lecture focused on the United Nations response to the threats posed by illicit drug traffic.

Participants included national officials, international experts and over 100 journalists from throughout the world. The Forum was addressed by the President of Peru.

The Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs speaking in Lima in November 1989.

Colombo Hosts NGO Conference

More than 350 delegates from all regions of the world participated in the Eleventh Conference of the International Federation of Non-Government Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse held in Colombo from 13 to 17 November 1989.

The main objective of the Conference was to increase the efficiency of activities designed to reduce drug and alcohol abuse by bringing about greater effectiveness and deeper commitment of non-governmental organizations and by imparting skills towards more effective needs assessment, activity formulation, monitoring and evaluation.

The Conference was organized by the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations against Drug Abuse and sponsored by the National Dangerous Drug Control Board of Sri Lanka and the Colombo Plan Bureau.

Also attending were observers from the International Narcotics Control Board, the International Labour Office and the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions.

UN Represented at Red Cross Congress, NGO Conference in Spain

The Second Red Cross World Congress on Drug abuse was held in Torremolinos, Spain from 11 to 13 October 1989. Sponsored by the National Red Cross and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, its aim was to elaborate a strategy for global activity for the Red Cross and the Red Crescent in drug abuse.

The Director of the Division, Francisco Ramos-Galino, who represented the United Nations Secretary-General, addressed the opening session.

The Congress was closed by Queen Sofia of Spain.

To strengthen the capacity of non-governmental organizations in combatting drug abuse, the Director of the Division had earlier addressed an international conference on Society's Response to Drug Abuse held in Barcelona, Spain from 8 to 10 October 1989, sponsored by the Association on Prevention of Drug Dependence.

South American Countries Meet in Bogota

The 11th Conference of Member States of the South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (ASEP) met in Bogota from 4 to 8 December 1989. Francisco Ramos-Galino, Director of the Division, addressed the Conference outlining United Nations work and achievements in 1989 as well as plans for 1990.

ASEP Member countries include Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

WHO Executive Board

The Director of the Division, Francisco Ramos-Galino, was in Geneva on 19 and 20 January 1990 to attend the 85th session of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization.

Drug Conference Held In Florida

Over 1,000 participants attended the 30th Annual International Drug Conference sponsored by the International Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association (INEOA) during the week of 12 November in Hollywood/Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

High-level officials, including the Director of United States Drug Control Policy, addressed the Conference.

The representative of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, Luis Mafiueco-Jenkins, Chief, Demand Reduction, Co-ordination of External Relations and Information Section, made a presentation highlighting the need for a balanced approach in tackling drug abuse, simultaneously addressing all aspects by reducing demand, controlling supply and halting illicit traffic.

The INEOA is an active non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

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CND Membership

The current membership of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is listed below:

Australia
Bahamas
Belgium
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
China
Colombia
Côte d'Ivoire
Denmark
Ecuador
Egypt
France
Gambia
Ghana
Germany, Federal Republic of
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Italy
Japan
Lebanon
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Madagascar
Malaysia
Mexico
Netherlands
Pakistan
Peru
Poland
Senegal
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom
United States of America
Yugoslavia

At DND Meeting

Environmentally Safe Methods for Illicit Narcotic Plants Eradication Reviewed

Invited experts from 10 States and several interested international organizations reviewed environmentally safe methods for the eradication of illicit narcotic plants at a meeting in Vienna from 4 to 8 December 1989.

Organized by the Division of Narcotic Drugs pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution E/1988/9, the meeting was opened by the Deputy Director of the Division, Bertrand Juppin de Fondaumière. In that resolution, the Council requested the Division to convene an expert group to make recommendations on the eradication of illicit plants using methods that do not harm the environment or humans.

The report of the meeting, which contains a number of recommendations, will be submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its eleventh special session.

Items discussed included socio-economic aspects, trends in illicit narcotic plant production, development of herbicides for use against narcotic plants, and developments in application technology.

Also reviewed were such matters as biological control of narcotic plants, development of formulations for biological control agents as well as related regulatory aspects.

1988 Convention Signed by 89 States

As of 1 January 1990, four States had ratified the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. They were **Bahamas, China, Nigeria and Senegal.**

Eighty-nine States and the Commission of the European Communities signed the 1988 Convention until the time limit of 20 December 1989.

The Convention is to enter into force 90 days after the twentieth instrument of ratification has been deposited with the United Nations Secretary-General.

Experts Examine Pre-trial Destruction of Seized Drugs

Procedures and legislative provisions to enable the pre-trial destruction of seized drugs were examined at an expert group meeting held at Vienna from 13 to 17 November 1989.

Pre-trial destruction is recommended as a suitable solution to the costs and risks involved in keeping large consignments of seized drugs or substances used in the manufacture for evidentiary purposes. Such destruction is envisaged under Article 14 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

The meeting, which was organized by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, also recommended a series of procedural steps to ensure the destruction of seized substances and the continuation of appropriate legal proceedings. The meeting agreed that all seized substances should be destroyed or otherwise disposed of as soon as possible after seizure. Only representative samples necessary to ensure successful prosecution and the due administration of justice are to be retained.

It was recommended that a second expert group meeting be convened to pursue related aspects and to draw associated recommendations covering the scientific and technical aspects of drug sampling, chemical analysis and destruction.

Attending were experts from Argentina, Bolivia, Egypt, France, India, Mexico, Spain, Thailand and United States of America.

G. Serpa Guinazu (Argentina) was elected Chairman and R.K. Tewari (India) Vice-Chairman of the meeting, which was opened by the Director of the Division, Francisco Ramos-Galino. Ms. C. Volz, Chief, Treaty Implementation and Commission Secretariat Section, served as secretary.

Calendar of Events

Government authorities, agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as research and other specialized associations are invited to forward to the Director, Division of Narcotic Drugs, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, information on forthcoming meetings relating to international drug control. Basic data on international events will be published as appropriate in the Division's Information Letter, which is distributed worldwide. This information is intended to assist entities within the United Nations system, as well as other concerned organizations, in scheduling meetings, exchanging results and enhancing co-ordination. The timely receipt of comprehensive information on planned events will be appreciated and greatly assist in the preparation of Calendars of Events.

1990

United Nations System

24-25 January	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, 26th session.	Vienna
29 January- 2 February	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Commission on Narcotic Drugs, eleventh special session.	Vienna
5 February	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Inter-agency Meeting on Co-ordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control.	Vienna
5-16 February	Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs: 11th session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control.	Vienna
12-14 February	Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the special session of the General Assembly.	New York
20-23 February	**General Assembly, special session to consider the Question of International Co-operation against Illicit Production, Supply, Demand, Trafficking and Distribution of Narcotic Drugs.**	**New York**
19-23 March	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa.	Cairo
22-23 March	World Health Organization: Annual Meeting of Global Commission on AIDS.	Geneva
9-11 April	UK/United Nations: World Ministerial Summit to Reduce Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat.	London
23-27 April	International Narcotics Control Board: Seminar on Chemical Diversion and Illicit Drug Traffic.	Vienna
1-25 May	Economic and Social Council, first regular session.	New York
2-4 May	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, first regular session.	Vienna
7-11 May	International Narcotics Control Board: Training Seminar for National Drug Administrators in Asia and the Pacific.	Beijing
7-18 May	World Health Organization: 43rd World Health Assembly.	Geneva

6-27 June	International Labour Organisation: International Labour Conference, 77th session.	Geneva.
21 May - 1 June	International Narcotics Control Board, 47th session.	Vienna
26 June	**International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.**	
2-3 July	Meeting of Executive Secretaries of Regional Economic Commissions.	Vienna
4-7 July	Economic and Social Council, second regular session.	Geneva
7 August - 7 September	CSDHA: Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.	Havanna
24 September - 2 October	World Health Organization: 27th Expert Committee on Drug Dependence.	Geneva
12-14 September	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Inter-agency Meeting on Co-ordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control.	Geneva
18 September -	General Assembly, 45th session.	New York
24-28 September	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean.	Aruba
8-11 October	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Sub-Commission on Illicit Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, 27th session.	Capital in the region
8-25 October	International Narcotics Control Board, 48th session.	Vienna
15-19 October	Division of Narcotic Drugs: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Asia and the Pacific.	Beijing
1 December	World AIDS Day.	

Intergovernmental Organizations

12-16 February	OAS: Inter-American Meeting of Ministers responsible for the drug problem in the member states of the OAS.	Mexico City
19-23 February	OAS: Special Ministerial Meeting of all OAS member states and observer countries.	Mexico City
19-23 February	Customs Co-operation Council: 9th session of the Enforcement Committee.	Brussels
27-30 March	OAS: 7th regular session of Inter-American Commission on Drug. Abuse Control.	Buenos Aires
March	Inter-American Commission on Drug Abuse Control/OAS: 4th Expert Group Meeting on Precursors and Chemicals.	Buenos Aires
27 September - 3 October	ICPO/Interpol: General Assembly, 59th session.	Ottawa

Non-governmental Organizations

2 February	NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs.	Vienna
13 February	NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.	New York
13 March	NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.	New York
23 March	NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs.	Vienna
10 April	NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.	New York
23-28 April	National Parents' Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE): World Prevention Exchange and 13th Annual World Drug Conference.	Orlando, U.S.A.
30 April	NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs.	Vienna
10-15 June	International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA): 18th International Institute on the Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence.	Berlin, F.R.G.
September	World Federation of Therapeutic Communities: 13th World Conference of WFTC.	Athens
24-31 October	International Association of Forensic Sciences: Conference on Illicit Drugs Programme.	Adelaide, Australia
12-16 November	International Federation of Non-Government Organisations (IFNGO): 12th Annual Conference.	Singapore

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22-25 May	Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran: International Conference of Campaign against Narcotic and Abuse.	Teheran

The comprehensiveness and accuracy of the Calendar of Events reproduced in the Information Letter is dependent on the timely submission of information indicating date, organizer, title and venue of planned meetings and events. Such information should be communicated at the earliest possible date to the Division of Narcotic Drugs, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, Telex 135612 uno a, Fax 232156. All contributions are greatly appreciated.